

## Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 NEA-10 /103 W

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R 271702 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7040

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 1682

E. O. 11652: ADS, DECON 27 MARCH 1974

TAGS: PINS, CG, BE

SUBJECT: CRITICISM OF MOBUTU REGIME

1. TWO RECENT INCIDENTS IN BRUSSELS HAVE GIVEN RISE TO RUMORS OF ANTI- MOBUTU DEMONSTRATIONS DURING ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT' S CURRENT VISIT TO BELGIUM. ALTHOUGH BOTH INCIDENTS INVOLVED EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CRITICISM OF MOBUTU, NEITHER WAS OF SUCH PROPORTIONS AS TO BE CLASSIFIED AS REAL DEMONSTRATION.

2. FIRST INCIDENT TOOK PLACE MARCH 12 AT BRUSSELS FREE UNIVERSITY ON OCCASION OF PUBLIC MEETING CALLED BY DISSIDENT ZAIRIAN STUDENT GROUP, UNION GENERALE DES ETUDIANTS CONGOLAIS ( UGEC). ACCORDING TO PRESS, AUDIENCE OF 200 PEOPLE, MOSTLY AFRICAN STUDENTS, GATHERED TO HEAR SPEECH BY LAWYER JULES CHOME ON SUBJECT OF " MOBUTU REGIME AND COUNTER- REVOLUTION IN AFRICA." GROUP OF PRO- MOBUTU STUDENTS IN AUDIENCE, DECLARING ALLEGIANCE TO MPR, TRIED TO BREAK UP MEETING. STINK BOMBS AND FIRECRACKERS WERE THROWN AND FISTFIGHTS BROKE OUT. POLICE INTERVENED AS RESULT OF BOMB SCARE BUT ALLOWED MEETING TO CONTINUE SINCE UNIVERSITY PERMIT HAD BEEN GRANTED. SMALL GROUP OF MPR STUDENTS CONTINUED TO PROTEST OUTSIDE MEETING HALL BUT WERE DISPERSED.

3. SCHEDULED SPEAKER CHOME, WHO SAID HE COULD NOT APPEAR BECAUSE OF ILLNESS, WAS REPLACED BY TWO SPEAKERS, BOTH REPORTEDLY  
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FRENCH: MESSRS GABRIEL AND ATHAHE, RESPECTIVTHE  
EXPRESSION OF INTERNAL DISSATISFACTION MAY PROVE TO BE  
THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR OF THE NEW LAW.

3. AS THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, THE  
SECRETARIAT HAS ALSO BEEN AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND FUNDS  
TO PROTECT THE IMAGE OF THE GOE BY ISSUING STATEMENTS  
IN RESPONSE TO WHAT THE GOE MAY CHOOSE TO CHARACTERIZE  
AS MISINFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA. THE SCOPE OF  
THIS AUTHORITY IS FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY THE FACT THAT  
UNDER THE NEW LAW, INFORMATION MEDIA MUST PROVIDE SOME  
ACCESS FREE OF CHARGE.

4. IN THE CASE OF PRINTED PUBLICATIONS, THE SECRETARIAT  
IS LIMITED TO FREE USE OF 2 PERCENT OF THE AVAILABLE SPACE ON  
A NON- CUMULATIVE BASIS. TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS  
ARE OBLIGED TO CARRY PRESIDENTIAL AND MINISTERIAL  
PRESENTATIONS. FREE ACCESS TO TIME IN PUBLIC THEATERS  
IS MUCH MORE OPEN- ENDED.

5. ALTHOUGH THE LAW MAY BE SEEN AS NOT TERRIBLY EX-  
CESSIVE IN ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR FREE USE OF 2 PERCENT NEWS-  
PAPER SPACE, EDITORIAL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN CENTERING  
ON THIS ASPECT OF THE LAW, STRESSING THE THREAT TO THE  
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

6. THERE ARE SOME OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE LAW WHICH ADD  
TO THE POTENTIAL AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARIAT. ALL  
EDITORIAL COMMENTS TRANSMITTED BY TV OR RADIO MUST BE  
LICENSED FOR RADIO, TELEVISION, OR OTHER COMMUNICATION  
COMPANIES MUST RECEIVE ITS APPROVAL. IN ADDITION IT HAS  
BEEN APPOINTED THE PUBLIC CENSOR FOR MOVIES AND OTHER  
EXHIBITIONS.

7. ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE LAW IS THAT CERTAIN PRINTED  
MATTER, I. E. PERIODICALS, MAGAZINES AND PAMPHLETS, MAY  
NOT BE CIRCULATED IN THE COUNTRY UNLESS THE  
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PUBLISHERS OF THE MATERIAL HAVE PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED  
WITH THE SECRETARIAT. WE DO NOT AS YET KNOW TO WHAT  
EXTENT USIS' S ACTIVITIES MAY BE AFFECTED BY THIS REQUIRE-  
MENT.

BURNS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980106  
**Subject:** CRITICISM OF MOBUTU REGIME  
**TAGS:** PINS, BE, CG  
**To:** AF  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO KINSHASA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005